



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MERCHANT & GOULD PC
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-0903

COPY MAILED

DEC 10 2009

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Sadao Nishibori et al.
Application No. 09/843,919
Filed: April 30, 2001
Attorney Docket No. DE1615

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the renewed petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed September 21, 2009, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely file a reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action of December 14, 2007. The proposed reply required for consideration of a petition to revive must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2), an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance, a Request for Continued Examination and submission (37 CFR 1.114), or the filing of a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(A)(2). No extensions of time pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the date of abandonment of this application is March 15, 2008.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee of \$405, and the submission required by 37 CFR 1.114; (2) the petition fee of \$810; and (3) a proper statement of unintentional delay.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the JoAnne Burke at (571)272-4584.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 1794 for processing of the RCE and for appropriate action by the Examiner in the normal course of business on the amendment submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.114.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JoAnne Burke', written over the printed name.

JoAnne Burke
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions